

REVIEW AND DECISION PROCESS FOR THE
EP**§ 250.231 After receiving the EP, what will MMS do?**

(a) *Determine whether deemed submitted.* Within 15 working days after receiving your proposed EP and its accompanying information, the Regional Supervisor will review your submission and deem your EP submitted if:

(1) The submitted information, including the information that must accompany the EP (refer to the list in § 250.212), fulfills requirements and is sufficiently accurate;

(2) You have provided all needed additional information (see § 250.201(b)); and

(3) You have provided the required number of copies (see § 250.206(a)).

(b) *Identify problems and deficiencies.* If the Regional Supervisor determines that you have not met one or more of the conditions in paragraph (a) of this section, the Regional Supervisor will notify you of the problem or deficiency within 15 working days after the Regional Supervisor receives your EP and its accompanying information. The Regional Supervisor will not deem your EP submitted until you have corrected all problems or deficiencies identified in the notice.

(c) *Deemed submitted notification.* The Regional Supervisor will notify you when the EP is deemed submitted.

§ 250.232 What actions will MMS take after the EP is deemed submitted?

(a) *State and CZMA consistency reviews.* Within 2 working days after deeming your EP submitted under § 250.231, the Regional Supervisor will use receipted mail or alternative method to send a public information copy of the EP and its accompanying information to the following:

(1) *The Governor of each affected State.* The Governor has 21 calendar days after receiving your deemed-submitted EP to submit comments. The Regional Supervisor will not consider comments received after the deadline.

(2) *The CZMA agency of each affected State.* The CZMA consistency review period under section 307(c)(3)(B)(ii) of the CZMA (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)(B)(ii)) and 15 CFR 930.78 begins when the State's CZMA agency receives a copy of your deemed-submitted EP, consistency certification, and required necessary data and information (see 15 CFR 930.77(a)(1)).

(b) *MMS compliance review.* The Regional Supervisor will review the exploration activities described in your proposed EP to ensure that they conform to the performance standards in § 250.202.

(c) *MMS environmental impact evaluation.* The Regional Supervisor will evaluate the environmental impacts of the activities described in your proposed EP and prepare environmental documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the implementing regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508).

(d) *Amendments.* During the review of your proposed EP, the Regional Supervisor may require you, or you may elect, to change your EP. If you elect to amend your EP, the Regional Supervisor may determine that your EP, as amended, is subject to the requirements of § 250.231.

[70 FR 51501, Aug. 30, 2005, as amended at 72 FR 25200, May 4, 2007]

§ 250.233 What decisions will MMS make on the EP and within what timeframe?

(a) *Timeframe.* The Regional Supervisor will take one of the actions shown in the table in paragraph (b) of this section within 30 calendar days after the Regional Supervisor deems your EP submitted under § 250.231, or receives the last amendment to your proposed EP, whichever occurs later.

(b) *MMS decision.* By the deadline in paragraph (a) of this section, the Regional Supervisor will take one of the following actions: